Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083770
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083770

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO

SUBJECT:PROPOSED LETTER TO BRIG GARBA

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED LETTER FROM YOU TO BRIGADIER GARBA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BRIGADIER J. N. GARBA
COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LAGOS, NIGERIA

DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER:

I VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAD IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES
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AND NIGERIA. UNFORTUNATELY, I DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY DURING OUR MEETING TO RAISE ONE OTHER ISSUE WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION, NAMELY THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ILO, WHICH WILL POSE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES FOR THE UN SYSTEM.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, IN NOVEMBER 1975, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION

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SUBMITTED A NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO
ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ILO CONSTITUTION.
THE SPECIFIC DATE FOR WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE NOVEMBER 5, 1977.
THE U.S. STATED IN THAT LETTER:

"THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT DESIRE TO LEAVE THE ILO. THE
UNITED STATES DOES NOT EXPECT TO DO SO. BUT WE DO INTEND
TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE CONDITIONS
WHICH WILL FACILITATE OUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION. IF
THIS SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, WE ARE IN FACT PREPARED TO
DEPART." -

THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION HAS REAFFIRMED THAT POSITION IN
A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1977 BY THE
SECRETARIES OF STATE, LABOR AND COMMERCE.

I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT
THAT WE MAKE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS AT THE JUNE MEETING TO
PERMIT THE UNITED STATES TO REMAIN IN THE ILO. CONTINUING
US MEMBERSHIP IN AN IMPROVED ILO IS NOT ONLY IN AMERICAN
INTERESTS, BUT IN THE INTERESTS OF OTHER MEMBER STATES. IN
ADDITION, AS YOU WILL PERHAPS SENSE ALSO, I FEAR A US
DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS
EXTENDING FAR BEYOND THE ILO ITSELF. IF THE UNITED STATES
IS TO REMAIN IN THE ILO, IT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL THAT
THE ILO, AT ITS JUNE CONFERENCE, SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF
THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

IN THIS REGARD, A PARTICULARLY CRITICAL MEETING WILL BE
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THAT OF THE LABOR MINISTERS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WILL
TAKE PLACE IN TRIPOLI IN LATE APRIL. IF, ON THE ONE HAND,
THAT MEETING ENCOURAGES MEMBER STATES TO LOOK SOBERLY AT
THE SERIOUS ISSUES THAT WILL BE POSED AT THE ANNUAL CON-
FERENCE OF THE ILO, THEN PROGRESS WILL BE POSSIBLE. IF,
ON THE OTHER HAND, THESE ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED IN THE
CONTEXT OF MATTERS WHICH PROPERLY LIE OUTSIDE THE MANDATE
OF THE ILO, THEN PROGRESS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AND A MAJOR
SETBACK TO THE UN SYSTEM SEEMS INEVITABLE. I AM, THEREFORE,
WRITING YOU IN THE HOPE THAT NIGERIA CAN JOIN OTHERS IN
USING ITS INFLUENCE IN ORDER THAT THIS CRITICAL MEETING IN
TRIPOLI DOES NOT RESULT IN THE FORMULATION OF FIXED
POSITIONS WHICH COMPEL MEMBERS TO ARRIVE AT THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE ILO WITH PRE-DETERMINED ATTITUDES THAT
WILL MAKE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE JUNE CONFERENCE
IMPOSSIBLE.

ALTHOUGH THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF NOTICE DOES NOT OFFICIALLY
EXPIRE UNTIL NOVEMBER 5, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THE TIME AT

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OUR DISPOSAL MUST NOW BE RECKONED WITHIN WEEKS. GIVEN THE SHORT TIME BEFORE THE JUNE CONFERENCE, THE MEETING IN TRIPOLI MAY BE ABSOLUTELY CENTRAL TO THE FINAL OUTCOME.

AS I MENTIONED, GIVEN THE TRIPARTITE NATURE OF THE ILO, A DECISION BY THE UNITED STATES TO REMAIN IN THE ORGANIZATION MUST BE MADE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. LIKE THE US GOVERNMENT, THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE ILO IN RECENT MONTHS. THEY BOTH HAVE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE JUNE MEETING MAY BE THE CRUCIAL FACTOR IN THEIR DECISION. IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO GO INTO ANY DETAIL ABOUT THE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WILL ARISE AT THE JUNE CONFERENCE AND THE EFFORTS WE HAVE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THEM. THOSE DETAILS WERE COVERED DURING THE EXCELLENT TALKS HELD WITH OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN JANUARY WHEN DANIEL HOROWITZ, OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO
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GOVERNING BODY, VISITED LAGOS. IN GENERAL TERMS, HOWEVER, WE ARE SEEKING TO AMEND THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE ILO CONFERENCE (SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE 17) TO ENSURE THAT RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE CONFERENCE ARE HANDLED WITH DUE PROCESS, AND THAT SUBJECTS COVERED BY RESOLUTIONS ARE APPROPRIATE AND RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE ILO. IN ADDITION, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT CHARGES OR COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST ANY MEMBER STATE ARE DEALT WITH BY RECOURSE TO THE REGULAR INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES AND DUE PROCESS WHICH HAVE BEEN AND SHOULD REMAIN THE HALLMARK OF THE ILO. IN RECENT YEARS, AS YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES KNOW, THE CONFERENCE HAS OFTEN BY-PASSED SUCH PROCEDURES, WHICH TOOK FIFTY YEARS TO DEVELOP, AND THIS HAS LED TO GREAT DISILLUSIONMENT ABOUT THE ILO'S IMPARTIALITY, WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN HIGHLY RESPECTED.

WE BELIEVE THE ILO WITH ITS UNIQUE TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATION--WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND GOVERNMENTS--CONTINUES TO HAVE THE POTENTIALFOR MAKING AN IMPORTAND ADN VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IN CONCLUSION, THEREFORE, I HOPE THAT NIGERIA AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO WORK FOR AN APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL PERMIT THE ILO TO THRIVE AS AN INSTITUTION THAT SERVES THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS MEMBERS.

SINCERELY,

ANDREW YOUNG
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770129-1211
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Subject: PROPOSED LETTER TO BRIG GARBA FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED LETTER FROM YOU TO BRIGADIER GARBA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENT
TAGS: ELAB, PORG, NI, US, ILO, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (GARBA, J N)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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